

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 27, 2004, the Examiner allowed claim 35, rejected claims 1-34 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,588,041 to Meyer, Jr. et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,750 to Zurek et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,896,461 to Faraci et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

As discussed in detail below, the cited references do not disclose or suggest features of the applicants' claims. For example, as will be discussed, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, as set forth in pending claims 1, 19-20 and 22-23, a portable hands-free adapter, or portable speakerphone device, including a pocket-sized or approximately pocket-sized housing containing a microphone and a loudspeaker. Furthermore, as will also be discussed, none of the cited references disclose or suggest, as set forth in pending claim 24, a method for making a portable speakerphone device adaptable for use with a cellular telephone, including providing pocket sized housing means defining an exterior of the device, and disposing loudspeaker means and microphone means within the housing means.

The Examiner indicates that Meyer, Jr. et al. discloses a portable hands free adapter device for use with a cellular telephone. The Examiner further indicates that Zurek et al. discloses a speakerphone for use with a portable telephone, useable in a variety of positions and including echo cancellation software. Still further, Examiner further indicates that Faraci et al. discloses a compact speakerphone including an angled microphone mounting and directional microphone to minimize feedback from the speaker.

Meyer, Jr. et al. discusses what is referred to as a cellular speakerphone device. The device is operable in a hands-free mode that is automatically interruptible to permit operation in a handset mode using an optional handset coupled to the speakerphone device, allowing positioning of the microphone close to the speaker's mouth. As admitted by the Examiner, Meyer et al. does not disclose a portable hands free adapter device including an approximately pocket sized housing containing a loudspeaker and a microphone.

The device discussed in Zurek et al. includes a speakerphone accessory that includes first and second resonators 502, 504. *See e.g.* Zurek et al., Col. 6, lines 16-17. With respect to the resonators 502, 504, in Zurek et al., as depicted and discussed with reference to FIG. 5, the first resonator 502 includes a first acoustic chamber 512 and the second resonator 504 includes a second acoustic chamber 516. *See* Zurek et al., Col. 4, lines 30-57. As discussed in Zurek et al., a “complete inner enclosure” defines the first acoustic chamber. *See* Zurek et al., Col. 4, lines 37-40. As such, Zurek et al. discusses separately enclosed housings for each of two components of the speaker assembly, which speaker assembly is thereby set apart from other components, including, among other things, a microphone.

Since Zurek et al. discusses enclosed housings for speaker assembly components separate from other components, including a microphone, Zurek et al. does not disclose or suggest a portable hands-free adapter, or portable speakerphone device, including a pocket-sized or approximately pocket-sized housing containing a microphone and a loudspeaker. In fact, Zurek et al. teaches *away* from *a housing* containing a microphone and a loudspeaker, since Zurek et al. discusses completely enclosing the

speaker assembly components for acoustic purposes, and even specifically mentions that dimensions of the acoustic chambers affects sound production. *See* Zurek et al., Col. 4, lines 58-65.

Additionally, Zurek et al. does not disclose or suggest providing pocket sized housing means defining an exterior of a portable speakerphone device. Specifically, the exterior of the portable speakerphone device as discussed in Zurek et al. and depicted, for example, in FIG. 1, includes, in part, surfaces of the speakerphone accessory and, in part, surfaces of a portable telephone.

Faraci et al. discusses a speakerphone apparatus with an angled housing for a speaker and a directional microphone. The apparatus as discussed throughout Faraci et al. includes a base 73 for mounting on a horizontal surface, or can be mounted in an elevated position. Furthermore, as described in Faraci et al., a housing 26 is described as preferably being 5 to 7 inches in height, and a microphone stalk 28 is mounted to the housing 26 and extends forward from the housing 26 by 5 to 7 inches. *See* Faraci et al., Col. 4, line 58 to Col. 5, line 8. As such, the apparatus discussed in Faraci et al. is not pocket sized or approximately pocket-sized.

Therefore, none of Meyer Jr., et al., Zurek et al. or Faraci et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, as set forth in pending claims 1, 19-20 and 22-23, a portable hands-free adapter, or portable speakerphone device, including a pocket-sized or approximately pocket-sized housing containing a microphone and a loudspeaker. Furthermore, none of Meyer Jr., et al., Zurek et al., or Faraci et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, as set forth in pending claim 24, a method for making a portable speakerphone device adaptable for use with a cellular telephone, including providing pocket

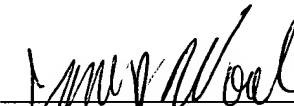
sized housing means defining an exterior of the device, and disposing loudspeaker means and microphone means within the housing means.

For at least the above reasons, claims 1, 19-20, 22-24 are patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-18, 21 and 25-34, which depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 20, and 24, are also patentable over the cited art. Therefore, claims 1-34 are patentable over the cited art, and the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

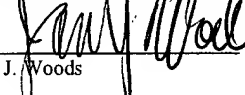
For all of the above reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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12/29/04
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